



**Start of [Irma Reich biographical
notes].**

AR 11504

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[Irma Reich biographical notes], 2004

Kindly reference this cookbook
and create and connect to a
file in the archive.

This book is being donated
as a living memory of the
life saved from Nazi persecution.
It belonged to my mother,
Irma Reich, nee Hamburger.
I do not know many of the
details of my mothers youth.
What I do know I will share
here.

Irma Hamburger was born
on January 26, 1920 in
Furstenau bei Hanover, Germany.

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Her parents were Henny (Yetchen)
and Alfred Hamburger. nee Bachrach

She had two older brothers.

the oldest, Siegmund Hamburger
is alive at 93 years of age.

Her brother Herbert perished
by starvation along with her
parents in Auschwitz.

The family lived in a rural
part of Germany. They were
of simple means. Her father
was a cattle dealer. He had
served Germany as a soldier
in World War I.

I do know that he took
such pride in having fought
for his country that he thought
no harm would come to

him because he had been a loyal Countryman.

My mother spent a brief time away from her small town + lived with a family in Hamburg. She then returned home after about a years time away to live a very abnormal adolescent time. She no longer could continue going to school since she was Jewish. Her best friend "Ludia" now looked at her and then spit on the street because - "she was Jewish". - So at a time when she was supposed to be developmentally

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branching out from the nest
her pattern became abnormally
reversed. She spent all her time
at home with her mother and
sick brother. Herbert had
epilepsy. At that time,
in Germany it was a very
shameful thing. It was
something that was concealed
from others as much as possible.
Unlike today where it is considered
an illness, it was then likened
to some form of madness.
This in turn reflected poorly on
family members.

Tragically, this cookbook

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Was given by my grandmother to her daughter (along with a photo or two) as a keepsake to cherish as Irma was sent out from her home at 19 to flee to England. Her brother, Siegmund had already left Germany before so that he could attempt to make a living which was no longer possible in their part of Germany as Jews.

The bright side of this story is that this young woman who survived by first becoming a housekeeper at 19 yrs. of age and then moved on to

Working day after day at a sewing machine in a factory doing piece work ended up creating a normal family life for herself.

She grew tired of endlessly having to go into the bomb shelters at all hours of the night in London during air raids.

She took all her courage and with the help of her brother, Siegmund who by that time was working in the jewelery business in South America - procured a visa.

She told me she wanted to leave England no matter what difficulties she had

to surmount.

There were mines in the ocean. Yet she managed to charm her way to get the papers she needed to get on a Steamship and cross those perilous waters. She left bombed out London behind.

As a young woman now in her twenties she traveled alone and finally reached South America. There she was told she didn't have the right documents. But, with some luck and some savvy she managed to make contact through her brother with someone that was able to convince the authorities that she should be permitted to enter the country.

Yet another language to negotiate
German, to English now Spanish.

From here on in this young
Immigrant womans luck would
Change. She was reunited with
her sole remaining relative.

She lived together with Siegmund.
She helped him in his jewelery
Store. Nice shiny expensive
items to now be surrounded with.

No more rags and factory work.

Now Irma had someone to help
do her household chores. She
went on horseback riding excursions.
They socialized.

In 1948, Irma followed in her
brothers path. He was to marry a

Woman that wanted to live in New York. So, Irma once again Settled in a new country — America.

She moved in with a very kind German Speaking Jewish woman, Mrs. Kahn in Washington Heights. Mrs. Kahn's observant family the Nussbaum's took a liking to her and befriended her.

Shortly, after she took a short course to work as a beautician. Her single regret in life was that she never was able to complete her education. Here was a bright woman reduced to doing very unskilled jobs. She worked in a hair salon for a brief time when as luck would have it

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She met a kindhearted German Jewish man, named Martin Reich. Martin Reich was 20 years her Senior. He had been in this Country for several years.

He was smitten with the young woman, Irma who he met in Spritzer's Restaurant on Broadway and 176th Street.

Irma Hamburger married Martin Reich in the Rabbi's Study on Dec. 22nd 1948.

On Sept. 12th 1949 - they had a daughter. Their only child - Suzanne Evelyn Reich.

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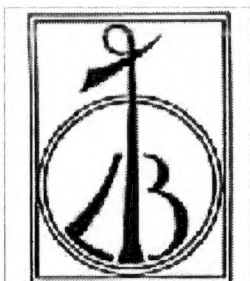
Irma and Martin raised me in a
Very loving Jewish home.

I went on to marry Robert
Schaps. Our children, Stephanie
(married to David Luftig) and
Alissa now continue to safeguard
their Jewish values and
upbringing.

Despite the fact that many in
our family lost their lives
Simply because they were Jewish -
We have created new Jewish families
and our pride continues.

Friday, Dec. 3rd, 2004
Scarsdale, New York

— Suzanne Reich Schaps



**End of [Irma Reich biographical
notes].**
